

# OBITUARY.

The Council regret that they have to record the loss by death of the following Fellows and Associate during the past year:—

Fellows:—Captain L. C. Bailey.

E. B. Beaumont.

Joseph Bonomi.

Rev. J. Booth.

John Carter.

W. R. Cooper.

S. M. Drach.\*

H. S. Ellis.

Rev. C. Gribble.

Rev. P. Holmes.

Henry Johnson.

Rev. R. Main.

John Matheson.

Henry Mugridge.

J. W. Nichol.

G. G. G. F. Pigott.

G. V. Vernon.

Sir A. S. Waugh.

Associate:—Padre A. Secchi.

JOSEPH BONOMI was born on October 9, 1796, at 76 Great Titchfield Street, in the parish of Marylebone. His father was by birth an Italian, and an architect by profession. He had been for some time the architect of St. Peter's at Rome, but had been induced by James and Robert Adams, the well-known architects of the period, to leave Rome and come to London, where he remained for a considerable time in their employment. He married Rosa Florini, a cousin of Angelica Kauffman, and after his marriage returned to Rome, seemingly with the intention of carrying on his profession there; but the death of her child so distressed the mother that they again returned to England, where Bonomi commenced work and was very successful in its practice. The Sardinian chapel and Montagu House, in London, are from his designs; also Eastwell House, in Kent, now the property of the Duke of Edinburgh; Roseneath, on the Clyde, a mansion belonging to the Duke of Argyle; and many well-known country seats. The elder Bonomi died in the house in Great Titchfield Street, on March 9, 1808. His wife survived him until June 1812. He left four sons. James was killed at the battle of Assaye, 1803. Charles, also in the army,

\* An obituary notice of Mr. Drach will appear in the next Annual Report.

died in 1843. The eldest, Ignatius, followed his father's profession, and died in 1870. The subject of this notice, Joseph, had a twin sister and two other sisters; and these complete the family circle. His parents were Roman Catholics and foreigners, yet Mr. Bonomi's education and ideas were thoroughly English. Art influences began very early to associate themselves with him; we have an illustration of this at the baptism of the twins, which took place in the Venetian Chapel when they were only four days old. The sponsors were Dom. John Charles Bonomi and Angelica Kauffman: they were not present, but were represented by Dom. Bartholomeo Ruspoli, military knight, and Maria Cosway. The celebrated patriot, General Paoli, was his sponsor at his first communion.

Joseph Bonomi was chiefly educated at a school in Carshalton, Surrey; after which he became a student of the Royal Academy, and gained the silver medal for the best drawing from the antique, and also for the best model from the antique in sculpture. Sculpture was the branch of art which he took to, and to carry it out he was placed with Nollekens, the sculptor.

In 1823 he went to Rome to continue his studies, and there made the acquaintance of Gibson, a friendship which only ceased with life.

In 1824 he left Rome, and went with Robert Hay, a naval officer, to Egypt, where he remained a number of years, working with Mr Arundale and others for Mr. Hay.

While at Medinet Habou in October 1825, he mentions in his journal the arrival of his friend Burton.

At the end of 1826 he left Mr. Hay and returned to Cairo, where Burton was making plans of the Pyramids and tombs.

In 1828 he accepted an engagement to assist Burton with drawings on the stone for his "*Excerpta Hieroglyphica*." This work they continued together for some time.

In 1829 he made another journey up the Nile on his own account, and revised his copies of the inscriptions &c.

In October 1829 he commenced a journey to Dongola, which he reached in November and left in December.

In 1831 he again went up the Nile and accompanied Linant in his expedition to the gold mines in the Desert between the Nile and the Red Sea. They returned to Cairo at the end of the year. Next year Bonomi paid his long desired visit to Bishereen Desert, where he remained about two months.

In 1832-3 he was again working for Hay, and returned to Cairo. At the end of August he, with Catherwood and Arundale, took leave of their friends and started for Sinai and the Holy Land. Bonomi visited the ancient temple and remains at Sarabat el Khadem. He copied many of the inscriptions on the Gebel, crossed the Wady Mokatteb and the Wady Fairan, and reached Sarabat on September 9. Of the Egyptian temple he made a plan, with measurements. In the same month he rejoined his companions at the Convent on Mount Sinai; and on

the 22nd the whole party started for Gaza. They entered Jerusalem on October 9. Bonomi, having adopted the Mahometan dress, and completely identified himself with the manners and habits of the people, managed to enter the Haram es-Sherif; he was followed by Arundale and Catherwood, and they managed to take plans of the buildings as well as sketches (see "Quarterly Statement of Palestine Exploration Fund," January 1879).

In 1834 he was still travelling in Syria, and remained some time at Damascus and Baalbeck. At the end of 1834 he returned to England.

A considerable portion of 1835-6 was passed in the north of England and Scotland. While in Yorkshire, Bonomi executed several works in sculpture. Much of the next two years appears to have been occupied with work connected with his Egyptian travels.

In 1838 he was in Rome, measuring and copying the hieroglyphs on the obelisks, and was in England again during the same year. In 1839 he was working for the British Museum. In 1840 and 1841 he was still in London, engaged on the illustrations of Wilkinson's "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians." In 1841 he was also engaged, with Birch and Arundale, in bringing out a book called the "Gallery of Antiquities."

In 1842 he went again to Egypt, at two days' notice, with the Prussian Expedition. Having accidentally met the members of the party—the Crown Prince of Prussia, now Emperor of Germany, Humboldt, Bunsen, and Lepsius—at the British Museum, at that time on their way to Southampton to take steamer for Egypt, the idea that his former experience would be useful led to the suggestion that he should go with the party. They left Southampton on the 1st of September. Bonomi did not return to England until September 1844.

In September 1845 he married Jessie, daughter of John Martin, the celebrated painter, by whom he left issue.

In 1849 or 1850 he furnished the drawings and, in conjunction with Warren and Fahey, he painted a panorama of the Nile, which was exhibited with considerable success in London and the provinces. It afterwards went to America.

In 1853 he assisted Owen Jones in the works of the Crystal Palace Egyptian Gallery.

In 1860 he left England with the "Himalaya" Expedition to Spain to observe the total solar eclipse of July 18 from Miranda de Ebro. (See *Monthly Notices*, vol. xxi., p. 1.)

In 1861 he was appointed, by the Royal Academy, Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, a position which he occupied till his death, on March 3, 1878, at "The Camels," his own residence at Wimbledon Park.

During the year 1867 the Hieroglyphic Dictionary of Dr. Birch was published by Longmans, in the 5th volume of Bunsen's

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 "Egypt's Place in Universal History." The hieroglyphic type for this work was cast by Mr. Branston, from designs drawn by Bonomi, and was at that time the only fount of the kind in England.

As an artist of hieroglyphics and Egyptian sculptures &c., Mr. Bonomi has never been equalled.

His principal works are:—Nineveh and its Palaces; Papers to the Society of Biblical Archæology, Royal Society of Literature, Syro-Egyptian Society, &c. &c.; numerous works in conjunction with Mr. Samuel Sharpe; Catalogues of Egyptian Collections—for example, Dr. Abbott's, The Hay Collection, Sir Charles Nicholson's, Hartwell Museum, &c. &c.

The work of which he himself thought most was a complete transcript of the Vignettes and Hieroglyphics upon the Sarcophagus of Seti I., called Belzoni's Sarcophagus, and preserved in the Soane Museum. It was published in nineteen lithographic plates, with an introduction by Samuel Sharpe, London, Longmans, 4to., 1864, under the title of "The Alabaster Sarcophagus of Ormenephthah I., King of Egypt." The above facts are derived from a memoir of Mr. Bonomi prepared by Mr. W. Simpson for the Society of Biblical Archæology, and we are indebted for them to the kindness of Mr. W. Harry Rylands.

Mr. Bonomi was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on February 8, 1861.

JAMES BOOTH, LL.D., F.R.S., was born at Lava, county Leitrim, on August 25, 1806. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1825, and was elected scholar in 1829. He graduated B.A. in 1832, M.A. in 1840, and LL.D. in 1842. In 1834 he received Bishop Berkeley's gold medal for Greek. He was a candidate for a fellowship, and in 1835 was placed second among the unsuccessful candidates, in 1837 first, in 1838 fourth, in 1839 first, and in 1840 second, receiving a premium on each occasion, and the Madden premium in 1837 and 1839, when he was first.

In 1840 the four candidates who received premiums were George Salmon, James Booth, William Roberts, and Michael Roberts, all well-known mathematicians. Dr. Salmon and Mr. William Roberts were elected Fellows in 1841, and Mr. Michael Roberts was elected in 1843, but Dr. Booth does not appear to have become a candidate again. Having thus so narrowly failed to obtain a Fellowship, Dr. Booth left Ireland in 1840, and in the same year was appointed Principal of Bristol College, an office which he held till 1843. Among his colleagues at Bristol were Mr. F. W. Newman, who was professor of classics, and Dr. W. B. Carpenter, who was professor of natural philosophy and natural history. Dr. Booth was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Exeter in 1842, and priest in the same year, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1843 he was appointed Vice-principal of the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool. He